

GRE写作

7.4 Argument 难题串讲-找解释

唐盛

找解释 - Discuss Alternative Explanations

Argument No. 84

The following is a letter to the editor of an environmental magazine.

“Two studies of amphibians in Xanadu National Park confirm a significant decline in the numbers of amphibians. In 1975 there were seven species of amphibians in the park, and there were abundant numbers of each species. However, in 2002 only four species of amphibians were observed in the park, and the numbers of each species were drastically reduced. One proposed explanation is that the decline was caused by the introduction of trout into the park's waters, which began in 1975. (Trout are known to eat amphibian eggs.)”

找解释 - Discuss Alternative Explanations

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Step 1: *weaken the proposed explanation*

Step 2: *offer alternative explanations*

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Step 1: *weaken the proposed explanation*

1. *When did the decline begin?*

The Holmes Law

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Step 1: *weaken the proposed explanation*

1. *When did the decline begin?*
2. *How well have the introduced trout adapted themselves?*
 - a) *There might be predators preying on trout.*

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Step 1: *weaken the proposed explanation*

The Holmes Law

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Step 1: *weaken the proposed explanation*

3. *To what extent does the habitat of the trout in the park overlap with that of the amphibians?*

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Step 1: *weaken the proposed explanation*

The Holmes Law

找解释 - Discuss Alternative Explanations

Two studies of amphibians in Xanadu National Park confirm a significant decline in the numbers of amphibians. In 1975 there were seven species of amphibians in the park and abundant numbers of each species. However, by 1985 only two species were observed in the park. One proposed explanation is that the introduction of trout into the park's waters, which began in 1975, (Trout are **known to eat** amphibian eggs.)



Step 1: weaken the proposed explanation

4. Do trout mainly rely on amphibians' eggs for food?

The Holmes Law

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Step 1: *weaken the proposed explanation*

Step 2: *offer alternative explanations*

5. *Was the observation accurate?*

The Holmes Law

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Step 1: *weaken the proposed explanation*

Step 2: *offer alternative explanations*

5. *Was the observation accurate?*

6. *Global warming might be the actual cause.*

The Holmes Law

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Step 1: weaken the proposed explanation

Step 2: offer alternative explanations

5. Was the observation accurate?

6. Global warming might be the actual cause.

The Holmes Law

找解释 - Discuss Alternative Explanations

Argument 84:

1. *When did the decline begin?*
2. *How well have the introduced trout adapted themselves?*
3. *To what extent does the habitat of the trout in the park overlap with that of the amphibians?*
4. *Do trout mainly rely on amphibians' eggs for food?*
5. *Was the observation accurate?*
6. *Global warming might be the actual cause.*

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Argument No. 84

The following is a letter to the editor of an environmental magazine.

“Two studies of amphibians in **Xanadu** National Park confirm a significant decline in the numbers of amphibians. In 1975 there were seven species of amphibians in the park, and there were abundant numbers of each species. However, in 2002 only four species of amphibians were observed in the park, and the numbers of each species were drastically reduced. One proposed explanation is that the decline was caused by the introduction of trout into the park's waters, which began in 1975. (Trout are known to eat amphibian eggs.)”

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Argument No. 84



Citizen Kane

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Argument No. 84



Xanadu

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Argument No. 84



Xanadu

开头段 The Introductory Paragraph

Two Steps

Two studies seem to have confirmed the decline in the number of amphibians in the National Park of Xanadu. The author of this argument attributes this decline to the introduction of trout in 1975, the year when the first study that showed an abundant number of amphibians was conducted. **[briefly summarize the argument]** This proposed explanation, however, is unpersuasive and can be weakened by alternative explanation(s). **[challenge the argument]** (62 words)

中间段 The Body Paragraph

The proposed explanation is first of all weakened by the possibility that the decline in the number the amphibians in the park began at a much later time. **[the author's explanation]** If the amphibians started to suffer immediately after the introduction of the trout, then the author's explanation is plausible; after all, if other factors were also intervening, they could already have taken effects beforehand, not right after the trout immigrated here. **[concession]** However, if the number of the amphibians started ten years—or even twenty years—after the trout were introduced, then there could have been a whole lot of other potential causes that were responsible for the amphibians' decline. **[your explanation]** To increase the persuasiveness of his own explanation, the author might have to provide more information concerning the exact date when the amphibians began to decrease in number. **[suggestion]** [135 words]

中间段 The Body Paragraph

Now that the proposed explanation is not the most sound one, then we might wonder whether there might be other, potentially more valid explanations for this decline, if any, in the number of amphibians in Xanadu. **[the author's explanation]** It is suggested in the letter that the decline was discovered in one study conducted in 2002. This information suggests that the decline might very likely have been due to global warming because, as is shown in many of such environmental documentary as *An Inconvenient Truth*, the greenhouse effect reached a level that could harm to a great extent the ecological system in the 1990s. When the rising temperature might have disrupted the success rate of amphibians' reproduction, no wonder much fewer amphibians species were identified after the millennium. **[your explanation]** If the author cannot disprove the disruptive effect of greenhouse gases in the 90s, his/her explanation for the decline in the amphibian species is open to doubt. **[summary]** (135 words)

Thanks

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